

Message Text

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UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 2607

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TAGS: OREP, PGOV, PFOR, EEC, US

SUBJECT: CODEL ROSENTHAL/ FRASER: PUBLIC MEETING ON
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

REFERENCE: STRASBOURG 70

1. AT THE CONCLUSION IN STRASBOURG OF THE THREE- DAY MEETING
(MAY 6-9) BETWEEN A DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP) AND
A GROUP OF THIRTEEN MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
A PUBLIC MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS WAS HELD BY THE TWO DELEGATIONS
DURING WHICH THEY ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT ON THEIR TALKS (REFTEL).
THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY REPRESENTATIVES
ROSENTHAL AND FRASER OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.
PETER KIRK, BRITISH MP AND CHAIRMAN OF THE EP' S EUROPEAN
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CONSERVATIVE GROUP, LED THE EP DELEGATION.

2. THE VISIT WAS THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF INFORMAL EXCHANGES
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE CONGRESS. AFTER AN

INITIAL PLENARY SESSION, THE TWO DELEGATIONS DIVIDED INTO DISCUSSION GROUPS ON THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS, INTERNATIONAL MONETARY REFORM, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, AND EAST- WEST RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CSCE. THE DISCUSSIONS COVERED BASICALLY THE SAME AREAS WHICH WERE DISCUSSED DURING THE CODEL' S MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS WITH THE EC COMMISSION AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. THE CONGRESSMEN WERE PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE ATTENTION PAID IN THE STRASBOURG DISCUSSIONS TO THE NEED FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE COMMUNITY ON ENERGY QUESTIONS.

3. THE PUBLIC MEETING OR PRESS CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 80 MEMBERS OF THE BRUSSELS PRESS CORPS AND OTHER JOURNALISTS. FOLLOWING OPENING STATEMENTS BY KIRK AND ROSENTHAL, THE US AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS RESPONDED TO A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS. KIRK EMPHASIZED IN HIS OPENING REMARKS THAT THE EUROPEANS HAD FOUND GREAT SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG THEIR AMERICAN COLLEAGUES EVEN WHERE THERE WAS NOT COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON ISSUES. IN HIS RESPONSE ROSENTHAL SAID THAT THE CONGRESSMEN FELT THAT THE " YEAR OF EUROPE" MEANT THAT THE US WAS NOW FREE TO TURN BACK AND REJOIN EUROPE, ITS LONG- TERM PARTNER AND DEEP AND ABIDING FRIEND. HE SAID HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES RECOGNIZED THE REALITIES OF 1973 AND THE CHANGES THAT HAD OCCURRED IN RECENT YEARS. THEY HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE VITALITY OF THE ENLARGED COMMUNITY, AND FELT THAT THE ENLARGEMENT AND CONTINUING INTEGRATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

4. THE RECENT SPEECH BY DR. KISSINGER ELICITED MANY QUESTIONS FROM THE JOURNALISTS. ROSENTHAL AND FRASER RESPONDED TO THOSE QUESTIONS BY STATING THAT IN THEIR OPINION ALL INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE REVIEWED AND CHANGED WHERE NECESSARY TO MEET PRESENT REALITIES AND THE NEED FOR MORE DURABLE BRIDGES BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE US. THEY BOTH EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS. KISSINGER' S SPEECH, ROSENTHAL SAID, WAS A GOOD BEGINNING IN THESE UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPECTS. BOTH CONGRESSMEN FELT THAT A " NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER" WAS PERHAPS NOT THE BEST PHRASE TO DEFINE ANY NEW INSTITUTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE REQUIRED. THEY SAID THE WORD ATLANTIC CONVEYED A REGIONAL INTERPRETATION WHICH WAS NOT AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION INCLUDING THE WIDE INTERESTS OF EUROPE. ROSENTHAL EMPHASIZED THAT THE LINKAGE BETWEEN TRADE, MONETARY AND SECURITY ISSUES IS " OUR COMMON HERITAGE AND THE YEARS OF WORKING TOGETHER," RATHER THAN A DIRECT OR MECHANICAL LINKAGE BETWEEN THE SPECIFIC ISSUES.

5. THE SECOND MOST POPULAR SUBJECT IN THE QUESTION PERIOD WAS AGRICULTURE. CONGRESSMAN MELCHER OF MONTANA REPLIED TO A QUESTION REGARDING POSSIBLE US DESIRES TO DESTROY THE CAP BY STATING THAT

THIS WAS NOT THE US INTENTION. THE CONGRESSMEN RECOGNIZED THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND THE NECESSITY FOR ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES WHICH MUST BE RECONCILED IN THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY. AGREEMENT IS NEEDED, HE SAID, ON AGRICULTURE IN WORLD TRADE.. ANY EXPANSION OF US EXPORTS MUST COME ON THE AGRICULTURAL SIDE, HE MAINTAINED. HOWEVER, IN THIS RESPECT, AMERICAN FARMERS DO NOT SEEK TO DO DAMAGE TO FARMERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. MELCHER EMPHASIZED THAT IN THE JOINT STATEMENT THE CONGRESMEN WERE NOT SPEAKING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION IN SUPPORTING COMMODITY AGREEMENTS.

6. CONGRESSMAN GIBBONS OF FLORIDA REPLIED TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON PROTECTIONIST FEELINGS IN THE CONGRESS AND THE PROSPECTS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S TRADE BILL. HE SAID THAT PROTECTIONISM WAS LESS DANGEROUS THAN A YEAR AGO AND THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE PRESIDENT COULD BE GIVEN A BROAD NEGOTIATING MANDATE. HE DID NOT EXPECT THE TRADE BILL TO BE PASSED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THE HOUSE WOULD COMPLETE ITS WORK BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS. HE AND CONGRESMAN REUSS OF WISCONSIN REPLIED TO A QUESTION ABOUT WATERGATE BY SAYING THAT THEY DID NOT WISH TO DISCUSS AN INTERNAL PROBLEM BUT WANTED TO REASSURE THE JOURNALISTS THAT WATERGATE WILL NOT CHANGE ANY LEGISLATIVE VOTES ON THE TRADE BILL.

7. CONGRESSMAN REUSS ALSO REPLIED TO QUESTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL MONETARY MATTERS AND SAID THAT AMERICANS WELCOME EUROPEAN PROGRESS TOWARD ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION. HE ADMITTED THERE UNCLASSIFIED

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HAD BEEN DISAGREEMENT DURING THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON THE URGENCY OF THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL MONETARY REFORM, WITH THE US LEGISLATORS FEELING THAT EARLY REFORM WAS IMPORTANT.

8. KIRK RESPONDED TO A QUESTION ON POSSIBLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES REGARDING THE QUESTION OF A REDUCTION OF US FORCES IN EUROPE BY SAYING THAT THE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON THIS QUESTION EXISTED WITHIN RATHER THAN BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS. GREENWALD

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